



Attorney Docket No. 5431 P 009

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Burns Phillips and Larry Griffith

Application No.: 10/613,646

Confirmation No.: 4622

Filed On: July 2, 2003

Examiner: Reimers, Annette R.

Art Unit: 3733

For: SURGICAL RETRACTOR CLAMP
CONNECTABLE TO AN ARM OF THE
RETRACTOR

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
AS SUBMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed January 30, 2006, rejecting all pending claims. In the Office Action the Examiner set a shortened statutory period, expiring on April 30, 2006. This Response is being submitted within two (2) months following the shortened statutory time period. Accordingly, a petition for a two-month extension of time is submitted herewith, extending the time to respond to June 30, 2006. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejections made in the Office Action in view of the Amendments and Remarks made herein.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.

This Reply should be considered a submission in a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. 1.114 (see attached *Transmittal*). Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$620.00 (\$395.00 to cover the cost of this request and \$225.00 for petition for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136). Reconsideration of the referenced application, including all pending claims, is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks set forth below.